

could further a piece of research, he aided generously. The breadth of his achievement gave him a comprehending viewpoint regarding life. One was aware in his presence not only of mental keenness, but also of mental calm and poised judgment and kindness withal. He never seemed hurried, but he never wasted time. His personality will be remembered vividly by all who knew him. As for his scientific publication, one likes to apply the imagery that he conjured up to express the influence of the printed word: "Like the light of the stars, it will arrive as if new, when perhaps the original source is no longer luminous."

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Dr. Alfonso Dampf Tenson (1884-1948)

It is with profound shock and regret that we have learned of the death of Dr. Alfonso Dampf, distinguished entomologist in Mexico. Dampf passed away in Mexico City on March 17, 1948, from cancer of the liver.

Dampf was born on the Baltic island of Dagö, in the village of Kertell, Esthonia, on December 3, 1884 (Old Calendar November 20), the son of Michael Dampf and Maria Tenson. He studied at the University of Königsberg between 1904 and 1909, receiving therefrom the Doctor's degree. Between 1907 and 1912 he served as assistant in the Zoological Museum and Institute of the University of Königsberg, in the latter year being appointed 1st Assistant in the same Institute. Between 1913 and 1919 he served as Government Entomologist of the then German East Africa. Between 1920 and 1923 he resumed his position as 1st Assistant at the Zoological Museum and Institute, lecturing in Applied Entomology.

It was in 1923 that he arrived in Mexico, where he was to spend the remainder of his life, becoming a naturalized citizen of the Republic in October 1941. Dampf's various high positions in Mexico included Chief Entomologist, Mexican

Department of Agriculture; Head of the Entomological Laboratory, Mexican Public Health Service; and Professor of Entomology and Head of the Department, under the Secretary of Education. In August 1928 he was delegate from Mexico to the IVth International Congress of Entomology, while in 1935 and 1936 he was a Guggenheim Fellow to the United States.

Dampf's influence on the entomology of Mexico was profound. The present writer has enjoyed a long and unbroken friendship with him, beginning shortly after his arrival in Mexico and ending only with his death. Only on February 9th, approximately five weeks before his death, he posted a letter from Cuernavaca, where he was convalescing from a serious abdominal operation which had been explained to him as being cirrhosis of the liver. In this letter he writes "This is my first vacation in many, many years. . . . As I was recently appointed research professor, without obligations to lecture, I can stay at home for a week more and at least put my correspondence in order. . . . Must close now, as lunch time approaches. A few white clouds are sailing through the pale blue sky. Everything is quiet, only the bees are busy."

It is difficult to conceive how one person could have accomplished the vast amount of work that Dampf has done. His collections of Mexican insects, generously distributed to many specialists throughout the World, probably ran to more than a million specimens, and perhaps several millions. I have estimated the Tipulidae that he sent to me at more than 75,000 specimens, representing many species and giving us our first idea of the richness of the Mexican crane-fly fauna.

Dampf will long be remembered from his splendid papers covering many subjects and branches of entomology. In 1906 and 1907 he was working on the Siphonaptera and at that time described the first fossil flea as *Palaeopsylla klebsiana* (1910). Before leaving Europe he published a major work on the Esthonian moor fauna. In Mexico, he investigated various problems of economic interest, including work on the migratory locust, the black fly problem in Chiapas, and several others. On all these trips, covering virtually all of Mexico as well as parts of British

Honduras and Guatemala, he spent long hours collecting and papering the insects for his *Mexican Fauna* and *Mexican Biocenosis* studies. He will probably be best known from this vast work which, it is hoped, will eventually be published by his friends and co-workers in Mexico. During recent years, Dampf was able to devote more time to his research on blood-sucking insects, placing particular stress on the Simuliidae and *Phlebotomus*.

Dampf remained single until December 8, 1934, when he was married, in Mexico City, to Herminia Torres de Alva, who survives him. Dr. and Mrs. Dampf were a most devoted couple and it is certain that he derived vast encouragement and help from his loyal wife during their married life. Many honors came to Dampf, among the more recent being election as Corresponding Member to the Sociedad Argentina de Entomologia and as a life member of the Societas Entomologica Rossica. He was likewise a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Entomological Society of America.

I, personally, feel the loss of a very dear and esteemed colleague, and unite with a host of other friends and fellow entomologists in sending an expression of profound regret to Mrs. Dampf at the passing of her distinguished husband.

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OBITUARY

Mr. J. R. de la Torre-Bueno, editor of the Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society for more than 30 years, died on May 2, 1948.